

Lathyrus holochlorus (Piper) C. L. Hitchcock
thin-leaved peavine
Fabaceae (Pea Family)

Status: State Endangered

Rank: G3S1

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1961): A rhizomatous perennial herb that is sparsely hairy on the calyces, lower surface of the leaves and stipules. The climbing stems are strongly angled but not winged and 12 to 40 in. (3 to 10 dm) long. The stipules are ovate to ovate-lanceolate, mostly $\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the leaflets, sometimes constricted into 2 lobes but more usually not, and the margin is coarsely undulate to dentate or dentate-lobed. There are 6 to 12 ovate or oblong-ovate to elliptic leaflets, which are $\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 in. (2 to 5 cm) long and $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ in. (0.7 to 3 cm) broad. The tendrils are fairly well developed but occasionally reduced to a mere bristle. There are 5 to 15 whitish (aging to buff) flowers that are $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ in. (13 to 17 mm) long. The calyx is $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (9 to 12 mm) long with ciliate teeth, the upper two sepals are deltoid-lanceolate and about $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the lateral pair, the lateral pair is linear to lanceolate and somewhat broader but shorter than the lowest sepal, which is about equal to the tube. The banner is pale greenish-cream, faintly penciled with purplish-rose, and $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ in. (14 to 17 mm) long. The claw of the calyx is slightly longer but narrower than the reflexed blade. The wings are pale lemon, about equal in overall length to the banner, and the claw nearly equaling the blade. The keel is nearly white, slightly shorter than the wings, and the tip is strongly recurved. The flower fades to orange with age. The pod is 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ to 2 in. (3 to 5 cm) long and $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (4 to 7 mm) broad.

Identification Tips: *Lathyrus holochlorus* differs from *L. ochroleucus*, *L. vestitus* and *L. nevadensis* in that the blade of the banner is slightly greater than the claw and the lateral calyx lobes are linear to lanceolate and not broadened above the base. The blade on the banner of the latter three species is equal to or less than the claw and the lateral calyx lobes are ovate in shape and broadened above the base. *Lathyrus holochlorus* tends to branch at mid and upper nodes, while *L. vestitus* (the other white flowered species in its Washington range) branches at the base of the stem.

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Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish

Known distribution of
Lathyrus holochlorus
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Ed Alverson

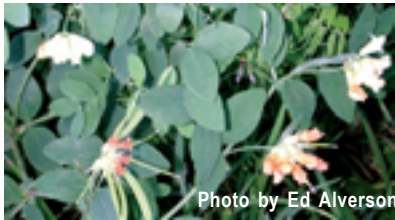


Photo by Ed Alverson



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Phenology: Flowers from May to July.

Range: This species is found from the Willamette Valley south to Roseburg, Oregon. In Washington, *Lathyrus holochlorus* has been found in a remnant prairie area in Lewis County.

Habitat: The species grows mostly along roadsides or fencerows, in grasslands, partially cleared land, or climbing in low scrubby vegetation. Associated species in Oregon include Oregon oak (*Quercus garryana*), oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), pacific poison oak (*Rhus diversiloba*), Hall's aster (*Aster hallii*), peacock larkspur (*Delphinium pavonaceum*), and vetch (*Vicia* spp.). In Washington *Lathyrus holochlorus* has been found at an elevation of 340 ft (104 m).

Ecology: This species found in the prairie-oak woodland ecotone, which has historically been maintained by fire.

State Status Comments: There are two occurrences in Lewis County. The sites are privately owned.

Inventory Needs: Prairie and oak woodland remnants in southwestern Washington should be systematically surveyed for additional populations.

Threats and Management Concerns: Threats include herbicide application, grazing, residential development, and weed invasion.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 614 pp.